



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS

POLISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY



A cover showing mixed franking of inflation issues (See Page 4)

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POLONUS Polish Philatelic Society

www.polonus.org

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The Polonus Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles appearing in the *Polonus Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for Regular Members **opting to receive** Printed Bulletin (via mail) are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40; Electronic Bulletin (via website) North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: **\$10**. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year, Dues for new members are prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan- Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, PO Box 60438, Rossford OH 43460

Articles for publication to be sent to: Editor

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President

Ed Andrews
afacinc@yahoo.com



By the time you read this message our election will have been completed, ballots counted and new board members prepared to accept their responsibilities. The next bulletin will detail various committee assignments for the new board as well as a list of officers.

We all look forward to seeing you, our membership, at the annual meeting in April at WESTPEX in San Francisco. Elsewhere in this issue are details of society events that are being planned. Please be sure to let us know if you intend to be at the show. After our annual meeting, the new board members will be contacting a large number of members who could not attend WESTPEX to better understand member collecting area(s) and to hear directly from you what members would ask of the society to make it more useful and responsive.

Our membership numbers continue to grow, despite attrition from age and changes of interest. We added 40 members last year, putting us at 265 on January 1, 2017. The large increase was due, in part, to our presence at World Stamp Show NY 2016. Membership will continue to be a priority for the new board and I am personally contacting anyone who has dropped their membership in an effort to better understand issues regarding attrition.

Our other priorities will be on our two most valuable assets: the bulletin as a source of new information, and; the website which provides access to philatelic resource links as well as digital versions of older bulletins. Soon we will have the Polonus Store on the website to make shopping even more convenient. We now have a volunteer who has agreed to handle fulfillment for the Polonus Store including Fischer catalogs. This volunteer effort is greatly appreciated and will help streamline our ability to ship member purchases. Until the store is online, Bob Ogrodnik remains the point person for store orders; elsewhere in this bulletin Bob has provided ordering information.

The voting for "Best Article" competition has been extended to the end of March owing to an error in the listing of one author. The article *Illustrating and Documenting the Early and Later Usages of the 'Port Gdańsk' Overprinted Stamps* was authored by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler, to whom we apologize for the error. We hope every member will take the time to cast a vote for the Best Article of 2016.

As we transition to a new board and some new officers, we are also meting out the many duties previously handled by just a few individuals. In that regard we have a need for volunteers in many areas, most of which are not particularly time consuming but all of which are vital to our

continued operation. For example, we need an advertising manager for the bulletin to help solicit new ads which provide a valuable revenue source for the society. We also need individuals to proof drafts of the bulletin, to assist with marketing store offerings, to write articles for the bulletin, etc.

We will also be needing legal advice. Our longtime lawyer has retired and we need someone with an active state license to volunteer as the society's legal counsel. If you have an interest in serving the society, please contact me via my email above. We welcome your assistance.

Polonus Bulletin Procedures and Deadlines

Deadline

Deadline for the receipt of articles, letters, advertising and news is the first of the second month of the quarter. For example, we need everything for the June issue by May 1, everything for the September issue by August 1, everything for the December issue by November 1 and everything for the March issue by February 1.

The preferred method of receiving copy is via an email attachment. Please send as an MS Word document. We also welcome compact disks (CDs). Hard copy is acceptable but it must be rekeyed so we prefer electronic transmission.

All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and content. Every effort will be made to retain the facts without changing the meaning or thrust of the article.

Illustrations

The most effective way to transmit illustrations is electronically. They should be TIF or JPEG, scanned at no less than 150 dpi and attached to an email. They can also be sent on CD.

DO NOT put the illustrations into a Word document before attaching to an email. Word has preset parameters that allows me to copy the image and place it in Photoshop but doesn't allow me to manipulate the image for color, clarity, sharpness or contrast. It's our goal to produce the best illustrations possible and this cannot be done using Word.

Questions can be directed to editor Vickie Canfield Peters by emailing vcanfieldp@gmail.com.

Mixed Franking of Inflation Issues and the 1924 Orzeł Gold Currency Issue of Poland

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews



Figure 1

It is not unusual to find German mail, or that from other country inflation periods, where stamps of previous issues are used together with new issues, including inflation overprints. If older issues no longer carry sufficient monetary value, postal authorities will often apply additional fees as postage due with or without penalty. However, mixed franking of invalid inflation and definitive issues in Poland is rarely seen. The following are the only two examples known to the author of 1920s-era Polish inflation issues and their overprints used with the May 1, 1924, "Orzeł" or Gold Currency Issue.

Figures 1 and 2 are the front and back of a cover dated May 2, 1924, one day after the release of the new groszy stamps. Concomitant with the release of this issue, all the postal rates changed, largely to reflect the new currency then in effect, but also to adjust rates for various services and destinations.

The cover is an official letter from the [Polish] Min-

istry of Industry and Trade addressed to Vienna. It is franked with inflation issue stamps and overprints equaling 240,000 Polish Marks. The blue line markings in Figure 1 were applied by a postal employee designating the stamps as invalid ... or were they?

Note the "12 groszy" pencil marking at the top left margin of the cover. If the stamps were invalid then the new rate of May 1, 1924, for foreign letter mail to special countries [Austria, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary] would require 24 groszy for the first 20 grams and 15 groszy for each additional 20 grams of weight. Official letters had no special rate for foreign mailings.

The back of the cover has two stamps from the new Orzeł issue equating to 12 groszy, rather than 24 groszy worth of stamps. My interpretation is that the postal employee gave a credit of 12 groszy for the stamps on the cover face, hence the pencil notation. The conversion from old Polish Marks to the new groszy currency was 18,000 Polish



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Marks to one groszy, meaning the 240,000 franking on the cover front equaled 13.3 groszy in the new currency.

The cover was likely prepared by a Ministry employee using up any available inflation stamps, representing three different issues: the 1923 overprints (Scott #195/ Fischer #168); 1924 overprints (Scott #159/ Fischer #167 II) and; the last printing of inflation stamps in 1924 (Scott #s 211 and 212/ Fischer #s 178, 179). There is no indication of an insufficiency or penalty being due, nor evidence of sufficient new postage to reflect the full 24 groszy rate. The combined value of 13.3 groszy credit for the inflation stamps combined with the 12 groszy new currency stamps provided the near correct 24 groszy rate (an overage of 1.3 groszy) for the new May 1, 1924, Austria special country rate. A truly extraordinary cover.

The second cover has a different story but similar mixed franking of inflation and new currency issues. **Figures 3 and 4** show the face and back of the cover addressed to the Haag in Holland (Netherlands). The correct foreign rate prior to May 1, 1924, was 550,000 Polish Marks for countries without special rates. A large bottom selvage block of 24 inflation overprints of the 1923 issue were used (Scott #195/ Fischer #167 II) requiring the use of the entire back since the front was already occupied by the address. The stamps were canceled May 2, 1924, at Nakło in Pomerania.

But the franking of only 240,000 Polish Marks was insufficient for the old foreign letter rate of 550,000 Polish Marks. It is likely that the post office did not have new currency stamps available, so, on realizing the deficiency, simply handed the letter back to the sender. One month later, June 3, 1924, the letter was finally mailed. This time it is franked with new currency Orzeł stamps equaling 30 groszy, the correct rate per May 1, 1924, for foreign letters to countries without special rates. The cancel on these stamps is identical, except for the June date, to the cancel on the large block of inflation stamps.

Why the sender decided to hold the letter for a full month before mailing it is anyone's guess, but the cover provides a fascinating look at the transition from inflation issues to the new currency.

Comments are welcome as Letters to the Editor if others have seen similar mixed franking covers of this period in Polish history.

Would you like to see your name in print?

***Write an article for the
Polonus Bulletin!***

Development of Airmail Services in Poland

Part 12-2: LOT Polish Airlines:

Joint Flights with Foreign Carriers to South America

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

A plain-looking Polish commercial cover addressed to Santos, Brazil (**Figure 6**), carries a historical story associated with a memorable tragedy in the South Atlantic air service. It was placed in the mail-stream in Lvov on the afternoon of December 4, 1936, in time to make the Air France connection at Paris on December 6. However, due to monetary inspection at Warszawa (two-line magenta cachet), the cover must have missed the Air France flight to Paris and the Air France South Atlantic service from Paris.

A Latécoère 300 (registration F-AKGF) flight from Paris, piloted by the famous French aviator, Jean Mermoz, left Sunday, December 6 at 5:45 a.m. The next day, while attempting the South Atlantic crossing, Mermoz had to turn back when his flying boat, the *Croix-du-Sud*, developed engine trouble. After an impromptu repair, Mermoz took-off again, concerned he would be late in delivering the mail. Radio communication was abruptly lost four hours later. Neither the aircraft nor the crew was ever found.

Hence, the cover in **Figure 6** missed the Air France South Atlantic connection and the Mermoz crash. Ultimately, it was transferred for mail exchange at Marseille from where the 76th DLH southbound service took off December 10, 1936.

Airmail picked up at Marseille did not use the red German staging cachet. The latter is detected by strict attention to transit and arrival postmarks. There was a 15 hour, 31 minute delay at Bathurst between the arrival of Heinkel He 111 *Breslau* and the departure of Dornier Wal *Passat*. The seaplane departed

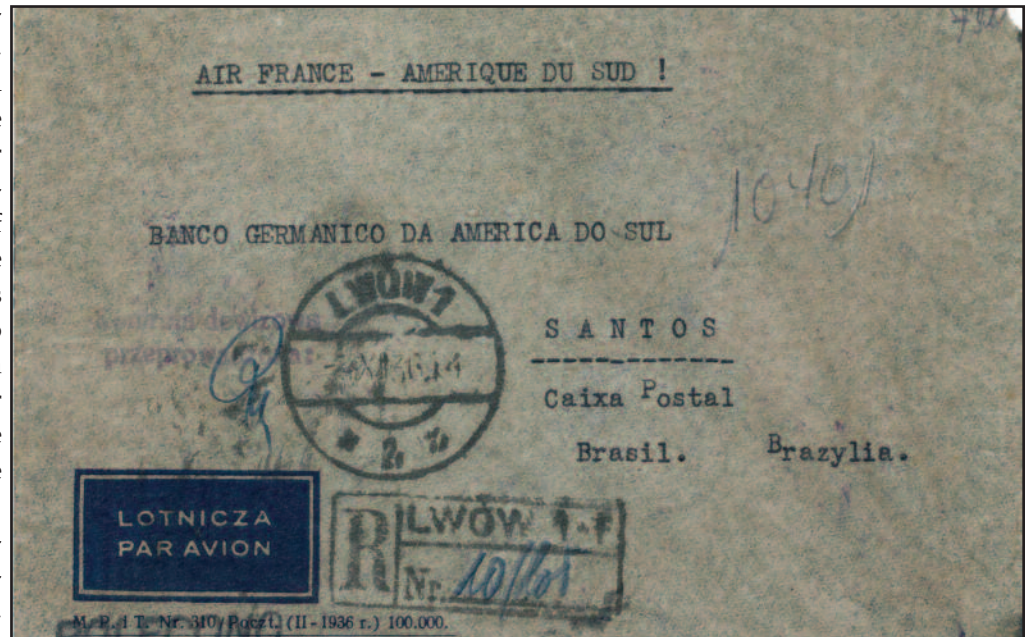


Figure 6



Figure 7, front

Bathurst Friday, December 11 at 5:21 p.m. and arrived in Natal Saturday, December 12 9:36 a.m.

Condor carried the cover to Rio de Janeiro on Sat-

urday, December 12, arriving at 9:52 p.m. The letter was transported by surface to Santos where it was arrival backstamped December 13, 1936, capping a nine-day journey from Lvov.

The cover bears stamps on the reverse of 7.50 zł. The correct charge for air service to Brazil was 6.50 zł (2nd weight increment; 3.25 zł per 5 grams) in addition to 0.55 zł letter rate (up to 20 grams) and 0.45 zł registration. This rate was effective January 1, 1936 through July 29, 1937.

A duo of covers in **figures 7 and 8** are of interest for several reasons. Posted in Kraków one day apart in February 1937, both are addressed to the Polish Legation in Buenos Aires, requesting delivery to Tinogasta, a remote locality in the Argentinean province of Catamarca. The addressee, Jan Alfred Szczepański, a Polish writer and mountaineer, was a member of the national Andes expedition in 1937. Although the sender requested air-mail service for both items, the trans-Atlantic routes taken were very different. The **Figure 7** cover, posted in Kraków on Thursday, February 4, as a registered “express” letter, was transported via Poznań to Paris for the weekly South America airmail service. However, as the trans-Atlantic flight by Air France on Sunday, February 7, was canceled, the cover was carried across the Atlantic by ship, arriving in Buenos Aires on February 12, completing an eight-day journey from Kraków.

The second cover worthy of note (**Figure 8**) was posted in Kraków on Friday evening, February 5. For unknown reasons, it took five days for this registered item to arrive via Berlin in Frankfurt/Main by train #124. The Wednesday, February 10, cancellation proves that this letter spent a great deal of time somewhere in limbo as one-day transit was expected for a Kraków dispatch via Warszawa by LOT to Berlin by LOT/DLH joint service.

A German staging cachet in red with a lower “d” letter in the right-hand side of the outer ring is indicative



Figure 7, reverse



Figure 8, front

Frankfurt where DLH service was provided. DLH Flight L217 left Frankfurt Thursday, February 11 at 4:37 a.m., arriving at Bathurst the next morning at 2:11. The trans-Atlantic flight was made by the Dornier 10-ton Wal *Boreas* from Bathurst to Natal on Friday, February 12. The seaplane departed at 3:31 a.m., arriving in Natal at 8:12 that evening. The final leg was by Condor via Rio de Janeiro, arriving in Buenos Aires Sunday, February 14, 1937 at 9:23 p.m. The transit time from Kraków to Buenos Aires was nine days.

These covers exemplify how unpredictable en-route events may have affected trans-Atlantic service. Needless to



Figure 8, reverse

say, one would be thrilled to get a registered express letter from Poland delivered in eight or nine days in Argentina some 80 years later!

The franking of 5.85 zł and 4.75 zł, respectively, is made up of 0.55 zł letter rate (per 20 grams), 0.45 zł registration fee, and 3.75 zł air surcharge to Argentina (per 5 grams; effective January 1, 1936–July 29, 1937). The first letter required an additional 1.10 zł for express service, which was never provided as the South Atlantic crossing by Air France was aborted.

Figure 9 might well be the highest franking (73 zł 45 gr – about \$18 equivalent in 1937) of any Polish air dispatch and the largest multiple usage (x24; 21 on reverse) of the highest 3 zł denomination postage stamp in inter-war Poland (President Mościcki issue; Fi. #290). Date-stamped



Figure 9

April 9, 1937, this registered commercial Warszawa dispatch addressed to Buenos Aires was flown to Paris to connect with Air France South Atlantic service on April 11. Flight 90A departed Dakar on April 13 with Captain Delaunay as the first pilot of the aircraft *Ville de Mendoza*, a four-engine Farman 2200. The trans-Atlantic flight took 15 hours, 45 minutes. The cover was arrival canceled in Buenos Aires April 15, a transit time of six days from Poland.

This unusual item, weighing 95 grams, as indicated by manuscript next to the Warszawa departure marking, was correctly franked with 73.45 zł worth of stamps (19th weight increment) consisting of: 55 gr international letter rate (up to 20

grams); 1 zł 20 gr extra postage for overweight item (4 x 30 gr per each 20 grams); 45 gr registration fee; and 71.25 zł air surcharge to Argentina (3.75 zł per 5-gram x 19 increments; effective January 1, 1936 – July 29, 1937).

The registered cover in Figure 10 started its journey in the northeastern city of Trzcianne on December 12, 1937, destined for Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay. It went by surface to Warszawa (December 13) for the December 15 LOT/DLH flight to Berlin, where it was placed on a DLH flight to Frankfurt/Main (staging cachet in red with a star). Flight L305 left Thursday, December 16 at 5:10 p.m., flying via Marseille, Lisbon and Las Palmas to Bathurst, where it arrived Friday, December 17 at 5:02 a.m.

Mail was transferred to the Dornier 10-ton Wal flying boat *Passat* on a catapult support ship *Ostmark* at Bathurst. *Passat* was launched at 6:47 a.m., arriving in Natal on December 17 at 10:48 p.m. The cover continued by Condor, arriving in Buenos Aires on Sunday, December 19 at 8:25. It went by train to Asuncion, receiving a December arrival marking. The original “via New York” routing instruction was crossed out as the DLH service was faster (transit time from Frankfurt to Asuncion was seven days).

This piece incurred charges of 4.55 zł, consistent with 0.55 zł letter rate; 0.45 zł registration fee; and 3.55 zł air surcharge to Paraguay (per 5 grams). This rate went into effect July 29 and ended December 22, 1937.

The cover in Figure 11 was on the next-to-last South Atlantic southbound DLH flight before the Second World War erupted on September 1, 1939. This item from the British Consulate in Katowice was mailed on August 8, 1939. LOT took it via Warszawa (August 8; 8 p.m.) to Berlin (August 9; 12:00) to catch the DLH flight to Frankfurt. South Atlantic



Figure 10, front and reverse

flight L477 (the 32nd in 1939) left Frankfurt on Thursday, August 10 at 4:44 a.m., flying via Marseille, Lisbon and Las Palmas to Bathurst, arriving Friday, August 11 at 1:30 a.m.

The plane left Bathurst at 3:49 a.m., traveling via Natal and Recife to Rio de Janeiro, getting there Sunday, August 13 at 4:13 a.m. The plane continued via Porto Alegre to Montevideo, stamped there with an August 13 receiving cancellation.

Of the total 3.45 zł, the first 0.55 zł paid foreign letter rate postage (per 20 grams) and the remaining 2.90 zł paid airmail surcharge to Uruguay (per 5 grams). This rate went into effect January 1, 1939. This mailing confirms that at that point in the history of trans-Atlantic mail, it was possible to get five-day service from Poland to Uruguay in 1939. The sobering thought is that within three weeks of posting this letter, the Second World War started. The last DLH



Figure 11

southbound flight from Germany to Brazil took place August 24-25, 1939. The French continued their weekly trans-Atlantic mail service through June of 1940, recording 505 South Atlantic crossings in the decade it operated.

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Polonus Annual Meeting / Exhibition Schedule

Polonus has made arrangements with the organizers of the following APS World Series of Philately shows to participate as a "convening" or "featured" society:

2017 - WESTPEX

April 28-30
Burlingame, CA
www.westpex.org

2018 - ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO

March 30 - April 1
St. Louis, MO
www.stlouisstampexpo.org

2019 - CHICAGOPEX

November 22 - 24
Itasca, IL
www.chicagopex.org

2020 - ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

May 15 - 17
Denver, CO
www.rockymountainstampshow.com

Polish Generals in German Oflags During World War II

by Jan Niebrzydowski

At the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, the German blitzkrieg overpowered the Polish resistance in the west of the country while the Soviet invaders occupied Poland's eastern lands. This was the agreement reached in the secret protocol to the Molotov - Ribbentrop pact. The Polish army had 950,000 soldiers at the time, including 98 generals. This article addresses the fate of those generals.

In the encounter with the Soviets, five Polish generals fell in combat and 12 were taken prisoner and sent to camps in Russia; all but one, General Władysław Anders, were later executed. Under German captivity, 27 generals died in POW and concentration camps. A few managed to reach France by various routes, mostly via Romania where they were able to join Polish army units.



Figure 1

In the autumn of 1939, 33 Polish generals and an admiral were being held in German oflags. Some were captured on the battlefield while others, who had escaped to Romania after the Polish army was overpowered, were handed over to the Germans by the Romanian government of Ion Antonescu. They were initially held in different camps but in April 1940 most of them were grouped in Oflag VII A, located in the Bavarian town of Murnau. Three generals died in these oflags. On April 29, 1945, the American 3rd Army under General George Patton liberated the Murnau camp.

After the war the leaders of the three allied powers (Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin) decided that Poland should be subjugated to the

Soviet sphere of influence, the Communist rule. Some generals remained in exile but several decided to return to Poland. Upon arrival, they were blacklisted and persecuted. In order to survive they were forced to perform hard physical work. For example, General Bernard Mond worked in a warehouse for derisory pay. Those generals who remained in exile were illegitimately deprived of their Polish citizenship and dispersed all over the world to find a means of livelihood. Advanced in years, almost all had difficulty in finding other than hard physical work.

None of the generals who fought in 1939 lived to see Poland regain independent statehood. They died in foreign lands although it was their heartfelt desire to be buried in Polish soil, whose independence they had won in 1920. As I write this article today, their memory is being restored after years of having been ignored and distorted. Their families and the Polish state are bringing the ashes of Polish war heroes back to Poland and naming schools and streets in their honor. History has at last given them justice.

Four postal cards from Polish generals held in oflags are presented here.

Figure 1 shows a card sent by General Abraham from Oflag VIII E in Johannisbrunn to the United States on February 21, 1941. General Roman Abraham (b. 1891 in Lwów, d. 1976 in Warsaw) was a Polish cavalry general, commander of the Wielkopolska Cavalry Brigade during the German and Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939. In this postal card, he thanks the party in the United



Figure 2, front

Lager obóz : VIII.E. (oflag).

Empfangsbestätigung potwierdzenie odbioru

Der Unterzeichnete nizej podpisany,
 Name nazwisko Bortnowski Vorname imię Władysław
 Dienstgrad stopień wojskowy generał dyw. Matrikel-Nr. 734
 bestätigt hiermit den Empfang der Sendung Nr. 104R
 potwierdza niniejszym odbiór przesyłki
 welche folgende Gegenstände enthielt: 1 puszka mleka, 2
a która zawierała następujące przedmioty
parę papierosów, 2 puszki OVO-sport, 2 p. cre-
kolady, 2 p. sera i biszkopty.
 Bemerkungen uwagi paręka puszka w dobrym stanie
 Datum 25. XI. 940 Unterschrift Władysław Bortnowski
 data podpis

Dieses Exemplar ist abzufertigen und an die auf der Rückseite angegebene Adresse unverzüglich zurückzusenden.

Figure 2, reverse

Kriegsgefangenenpost
 Postkarte
 & LA 5043
 Gebührenfrei!
 Absender:
 Vor- und Zuname: Gen. dyw. Juliusz Rómmel
 Gefangenennummer: 49001
 Lager-Bezeichnung: Br 14
Kriegsgef.-Offizierlager VI B
Dossel-Waburg
Deutschland (Allemagne)
 Empfangsort: Lausanne
 Straße: Ch. de France - Vaud

Figure 3

States for a parcel received.

Figure 2 is a card sent by General Bortnowski from Oflag VIII E in Johannisbrunn to Madame Lübke at the Swiss Relief Committee, on November 27, 1940, shown on the front, and acknowledgement dated November 25, 1940, of parcel received, shown on the back. Helena Lübke and the Swiss Relief Committee were noted providers of aid to Poles in German captivity. General Władysław Bortnowski (b. in

1891 in Radom, d. 1966 in Glen Cove, NY) is most famous for commanding the Pomorze Army in the Battle of the Bzura during the invasion of Poland in 1939. His forces were most notable for fighting near the outskirts of Łowicz and Sochaczew. His ashes were returned to Poland and reburied with military honors.

Figure 3 is a card sent by General Mond from Oflag VI B in Dossel-Waburg to Helena Lübke in Switzerland on January 26, 1944. General Bernard Mond (b. 1887 in Stanisławów, d. 1957 in Kraków) was a general of the Polish Army in the interwar period. He fought in World War I, the Polish-Ukrainian War, the Polish-Bolshevik War and World War II. In this card, he is writing to request material help for his family in Poland.

Figure 4 shows a card sent by General Rómmel from Oflag VII A in Murnau to his family in Poland on April 7, 1943, thanking them for a parcel. General Juliusz Rómmel (b. 1881 in Grodno, d. 1967 in Warsaw) served as an officer of the Tsarist Army during World War I and fought in the 1st Artillery Brigade of the Russian Army. He joined the Polish army in 1917. During the Polish-Bolshevik War, he gained great fame for achieving a decisive victory in the Battle of Komarów, the largest cavalry engagement of the 20th century.

Kriegsgefangenenpost
 Postkarte
 An
 Gebührenfrei!
 Absender:
 Vor- und Zuname: Gen. dyw. Juliusz Rómmel
 Gefangenennummer: 49001
 Lager-Bezeichnung: Br 14
Kriegsgef.-Offizierlager VII A
Murnau (Ob. Bayern)
Deutschland (Allemagne)
 Empfangsort: Buczacz
 Straße: ul. 3 maja. Apteka pol. "Zgoda"
 Land: Galicja. G. Główn.
 Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Figure 4

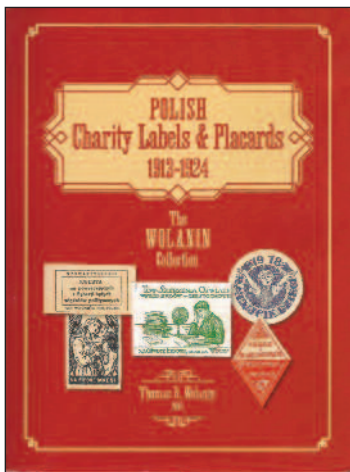


Polonus Literature Reviews

POLISH Charity Labels & Placards 1913-1924: The Wolanin Collection

by Thomas R. Wolanin

This book contains items from a collection of labels and placards produced in Poland between 1913 and 1924. This was a critical period in Polish history that includes World War I, the Versailles Peace Conference, re-establishment of the Polish state, formation of the borders of the new state through treaty, plebiscite and armed conflict and the war with the Soviet Union. These labels were produced as mementos or receipts for donations.



This book contains 23 chapters, 252 page and more than 600 items that fall into three groups. The first group, charity labels, represents 90 percent of the items. The practice during this period was for various causes and charities to solicit donations in public places and at meetings. In return contributors received a paper label to be affixed to the donor's clothing, often naming the soliciting organization and the purpose of the donation.

The second group, about 7 percent of the collection, contains charity placards that are too large (9 x 11 in.) to be characterized as "labels." The placard was presumably intended for the contributor to display it in the window of the home or business.

The third group, about 3 percent of the collection, contains miscellaneous Polish paper items from this period. These include a ration coupon, a concert ticket, a tax receipt and a Polish-Russian pocket calendar.

The 23 chapters are organized by event in chronological order or by charitable purpose. For example, the first chapter is "Polish Constitution of 1791, May 3," followed by "Tadeusz Kościuszko, 1794 Uprising." Later chapters focus on "Education," "Health Care" and so on. The collection referenced in this book illustrates the remarkable strength and variety of Polish civic culture demonstrated in the Polish lands occupied by Prussia, Russia and Austria-Hungary during the period of the partitions. It also portrays this culture during the time in which the Polish state was re-established in the wake of World War I.

Each page in this publication contains four kinds of

information. First is an actual-size color picture of the item. Second is a translation into English of the text that appears on the front of the item or a brief description of the item.

Third is identifying supplementary, handwritten information found on the back or front of the item or elsewhere on the original album pages. Fourth is a brief statement (for some of the items) about the historical or cultural context of the item.

This book is a significant reference for collectors of Polish labels and for students of Polish history. The book is available online at www.polishcharitylabels.com and is in the holdings of the Library of Congress and the Polonus collection at the American Philatelic Research Library. The collection of original items is permanently housed in Warsaw at the National Library of Poland (*Biblioteka Narodowa*). For inquiries, contact Thomas R. Wolanin, 2601 N. Nelson Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

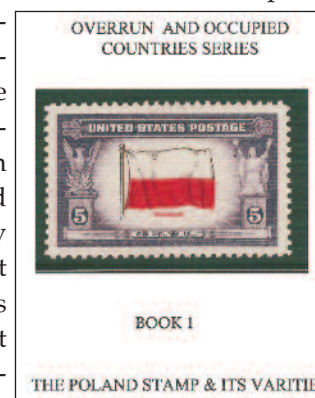


The Poland Stamp & Its Varieties

by Keith Lichtman

Overrun Countries Series, Book 1, The Poland Stamp & Its Varieties (Scott #909), 54 color pages, spiral bound, 8½ x 11. \$35.00 ppd. Check or PayPal, order from: Keith Lichtman, 37 Indale Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10309 (or email to: klichtman@verizon.net).

The Poland Stamp & Its Varieties is the first book in a series exploring the 1943-1944 Overrun Countries stamp set issued by the U.S. Post Office Department. Each book in this series is devoted to one of the Overrun Country stamps, however, the Poland stamp, first in the set of stamps to be issued and the first book in the series by Keith Lichtman, would most likely be of interest to Polonus members. The book is the result of more than five years of extensive study and close examination of hundreds of individual stamps to provide the reader with the most accurate assessment of the stamp, its varieties, and values.



This book has 15 chapters covering details such as papers, gums, margin markings, shading varieties and first day covers. Chapter 5 discusses the topic of "reverse printing." The most salient feature is the discovery that what the

catalogs refer to as "reverse printing" is not as rare as first believed.

Varieties are covered throughout the book. Check lists for the more common varieties are included. The book also gives a value guide based on how rare or common a variety may be. The book contains an extensive number of high-quality enlargements to support and illustrate the information provided. The language of the book is very straightforward and clearly written: beginning philatelists

can follow it and the information contained is invaluable to more advanced collectors.

In light of the series of articles on The Poland Flag of the United States Overrun Country Series initiated by Jim Mazepa in Bulletin #565, this book provides a timely reference for the readers.



A ballot was inserted in the December issue of the Bulletin (#565) with a request to vote for your favorite article in 2016 (Best Article Competition). The winner will be announced at our Annual

Meeting on April 29 at WESTPEX 2017.

We need your vote by March 30, 2017. Either mail completed ballot to: Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428 or email number or name of title to: Bob Ogrodnik at robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



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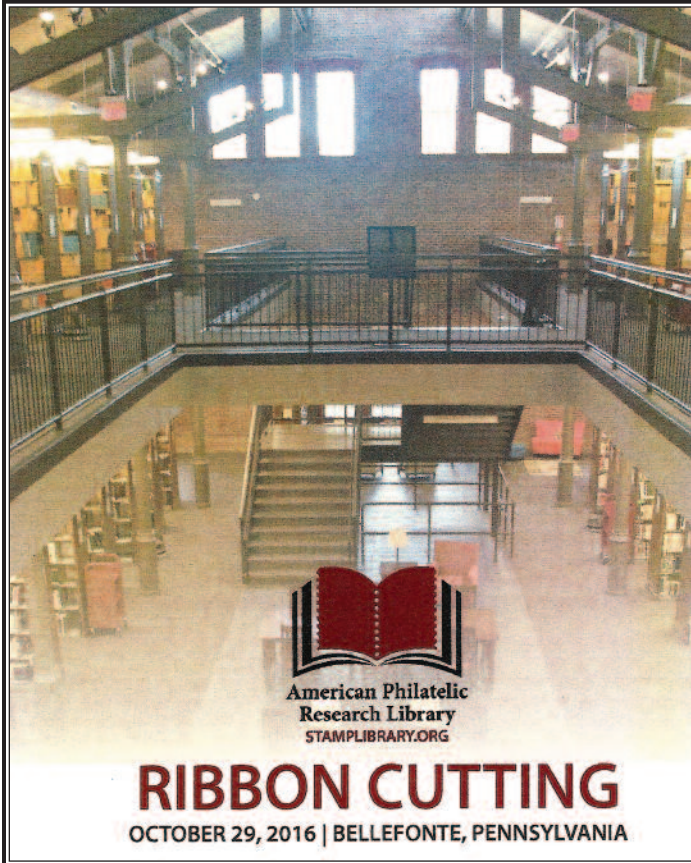
Polish stamps from No. 1 to Year 2015
Back of the book, Locals, Errors, Proofs, Imperf,
Hard to Find, etc.

Collections of Stamps and Covers
Unused or used collections also available
Fischer Volume II available

From the Library Liaison

by Robin Gates Elliott

GRAND OPENING: The American Philatelic Research Library has moved into new quarters at the American Philatelic Center. The grand opening of the new library took place on Saturday, October 29, 2016. Your Library Liaison made a point of attending.



A celebratory dinner was held the night before in Sundman Hall at the American Philatelic Center. The guest speaker was David Beech, the retired curator of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library. The subject of his remarks was the digitization of library materials: the expanded research opportunities that digitization makes possible as well as the current hurdles that it faces, mainly issues of copyright, expense and the expensive risk of digitizing materials that have already been digitized. He spoke from experience, since he oversaw the digitization of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library.

Opening ceremonies took place in the new library at 10 the next morning before a standing-room only crowd of 300. Speakers included Mick Zais, the newly elected president of the American Philatelic Society; Scott English, the

Executive Director of the APS; Ambassador Robert E. Lamb, Former Executive Director of the APS; Roger Brody, President of the APRL's Board of Trustees; Mary-Ann Penner, the Director of Stamp Services for the U. S. Postal Service; and several local officials. The ceremony concluded with an official ribbon-cutting held on the landing of the staircase leading to the second floor and performed with an oversize pair of scissors borrowed for the occasion from the local Chamber of Commerce. The American Philatelic Center and the APRL remained open until 4:30 Saturday afternoon and tours of both the new library and the American Philatelic Center were offered during the day.

The new library consists of two floors and has twice as much space as the old one, which has made a number of improvements possible. Previously, some library materials had to be kept in storage in a separate area, simply because the library did not have enough space to shelve them. Now they are integrated into the library's collections and easily accessible.

Philatelic journals are a major part of the library's collections, so almost all the shelf space on the second floor is devoted to journals. In the old library, bound issues of journals were shelved separately from loose issues of the same title. Now all issues of a journal, bound and loose, are shelved together. As before, journals are shelved in alphabetical order according to title. Recent issues of English-language journals are shelved separately; they are located on the first floor in a lounge area supplied with comfortable chairs and reading lamps.

Also located on the first floor are books, stamp catalogs, government documents and the reference collection. The new library provides more space, tables and chairs for users than was possible before. It now has study carrels, a rare book room, a map room and even a gift shop, which houses the APS Stamp and Cover Store, where philatelic material donated to the APS is on sale.

For more information about the new library, consult the library's website at stamplib.org.

Correction

My apologies to Dr. Stanley Sandler. On the "Articles of Distinction" ballot that accompanied the December 2016 issue, his article, **Illustrating and Documenting the Early and Later Usages of the 'Port Gdańsk' Overprinted Stamps**, was inadvertently attributed to another author.

vcp

Want to read about it?
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The 'Polish Corridor' Between Germany and Poland that Eventually Led to World War II

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

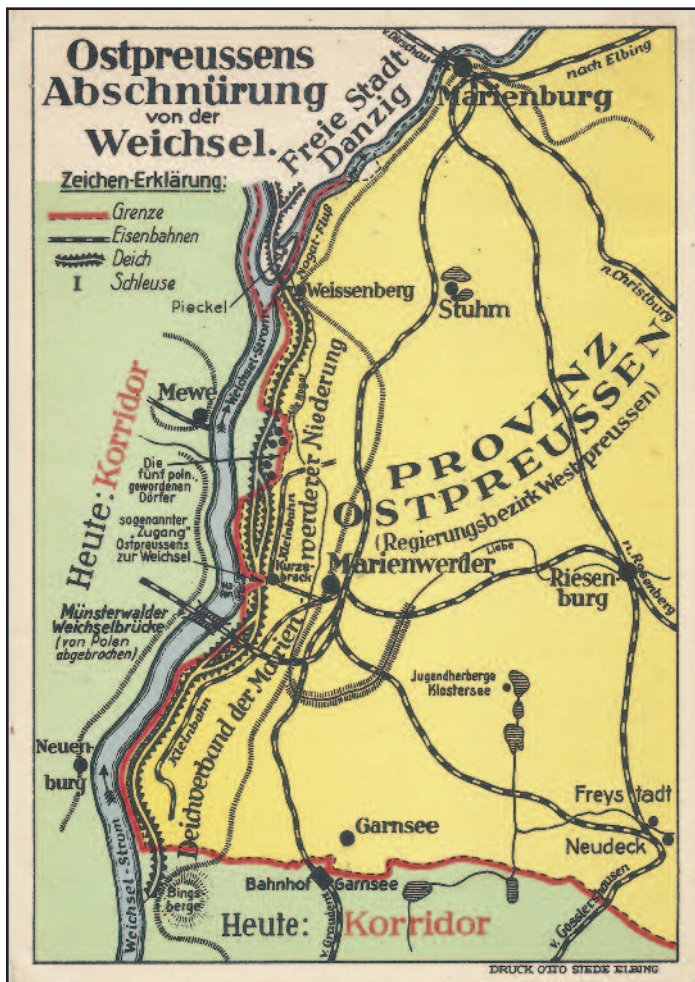


Figure 1

As explained in previous articles, the Polish Corridor was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The corridor was a major point of contention between Poland and Germany in the ensuing years.

Germany's first attempt to regain the corridor and the Free City of Danzig (Gdańsk) was to start a "philatelic war" with Poland by issuing propaganda picture postcards showing the "Polish Corridor." Some of them contained maps showing their problem with the functioning as a unified country. The postcards had a wide distribution all over Europe and some were sent to the United States.

A typical example of a postcard with a map is shown in Figure 1. [1] This postcard has a colorful map that is titled in German: "Ostpreussens Abschnürung von der Weichsel" ("East Prussia Cut-off by the Weichsel"). The postcard accuses Poland of breaking the Weichsel Bridge (located at "Münsterwalder Weichselbrücke") and further hindering transportation to East Prussia.

Germany annexed Danzig/Gdańsk, which included the "Polish Corridor," as part of the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. The Nazi government then released a large volume of philatelic propaganda (see Germany, Scott Cat. #492 and 493) claiming that Danzig was German: "Danzig ist Deutsch" as seen in Figure 2. This was done to convince the world, and particularly the citizens of Danzig, that Danzig was rightfully German and that Germany's annexation was justified.

The cover has a commemorative cancellation, translated "Munich, 19. 9. 39. the Capital of the (Nazi) Movement," and a special message that reads: "A Day of Great Significance to World History—September 1, 1939, -- Danzig Returns Home." The picture on the back depicts a painting by Hoyer of Hitler speaking at the Worker's Party at Munich in 1919 and is titled: "Am Anfang war Das Wort" ("In the Beginning, it was the Word").

Another example, shown in Figure 3, is a cover from a Danzig location mailed to a local address on Sept. 11, 1939 (10 days after the invasion by Germany) which has a prop-

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Figure 2



Figure 3

aganda cancellation over the Danzig stamp (Scott Cat. #168 with the wording: "Der Führer Hat Uns Befreit 1. Sept. 39." ("Our Leader [ADOLF HITLER] has Liberated us. Sept. 1, 1939.") Also part of the cancellation is the German Eagle and Swastika. In addition, there is a German stamp (Scott #B138).

Figure 4 shows a philatelic cover posted after the annexation of Danzig. This cover has 14 Danzig stamps that

were overprinted with the wording "Deutsches Reich" (Danzig, Scott# 241-254). This cover was sent from Danzig to Altona, Elbe, and all the stamps are canceled with the special propaganda commemorative cancellation of "DANZIG Grusst Jubelnd Seinen Führer Und Befreier ADOLF HITLER 19. Sept. 39" ("Danzig Joyfully Greet Its Leader and Liberator Adolf Hitler 19. Sept. 1939").



Figure 4

To justify Germany's annexation of Danzig, Hitler made a personal visit to Danzig on September 19, 1939. He delivered a long, blistering speech [2] to the Danzigers, giving them an explanation of why their German population had to be rescued from Poland by force.

It took until 1990 for Poland to once again be free of an oppressive government. Lech Wałęsa, a Gdańsk shipyard union leader, threw the yoke of Russia out of Poland and was the first president of a new free Poland from 1990-1995.

References

1. "The Persuasive Power of Maps-The Danzig Crisis & Nazi

Propaganda Map Postcards, 1933-1939," <http://barronmaps.com/the-danzig-crisis-and-nazi-propaganda-map-postcards-1933-1939>

2. Adolf Hitler, "Invasion of Poland- Transcript of the Speech to the Danzigers to Justify the Invasion of Danzig and Poland, September 19, 1939". See http://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/088_hitler.html

Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge Scott Tiffney, Research Assistant, at the APS American Philatelic Research Library for helping me research this topic.

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Gems of Polish Philately

German Stamps Invalidated in 1918

by Dr. James Mazepa, RDP

When Poland became independent on November 11, 1918, one of the first tasks of the new government was to maintain postal services. From the archives, postal officials retrieved the four 1916 Warsaw City Post stamps which Germans did not allow to be issued because they said the designs were too patriotic. These stamps were overprinted with new values and released on November 17 (Fisher #2-5) as the First Warsaw Provisional Issue.

Because of distribution problems and the need to

keep the post operational, the postal authorities allowed the use of the German occupation stamps (the German Germania issue overprinted "Gen.Gouv./Warschau") to be used until December 15, 1918. After this date they were invalid. Letters sent prior to December 15 with mixed "Poczta Polska" and the occupation stamps are rare. Letters used after December 15 with the invalidated German stamps are equally rare.

Continued on next page



On the illustrated cover, the sender attempted to use the invalid German stamps to pay the postage on January 27, 1919, more than a month after the stamps were declared invalid. He even overpaid the rate by 5 fenig! The postal clerk noted the stamps were invalid by obliterating them with a penciled "X." He then applied the Polish postage of 15 fenig for the city rate with three of the 5 fenig stamps of the first provisional issue and the 25 fenig stamp to pay the registration fee.

The letter also has some historical significance. The letter is addressed to "Wielmożna Pani H. Paderewska," the wife of Ignacy Paderewski, the first Prime Minister of

Poland, at the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw. The Paderewskis owned three homes: one in Switzerland, one in New York and a suite in the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw of which they were part owners.

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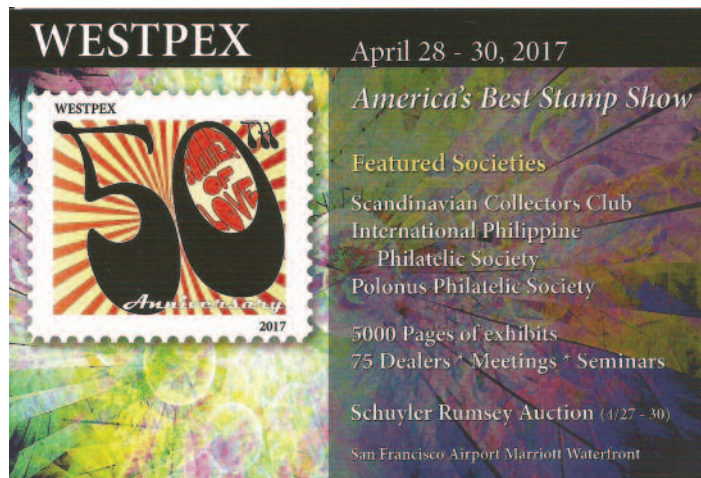


Polonus Society News



Countdown to WESTPEX 2017

When you receive this bulletin, there will be less than 45 days before show time at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Burlingame, California. Our 15th Annual Membership and Exhibition is set for April 28-30 at WESTPEX 2017.



Here's what you need to know if you plan to attend this show:

- 1) Visit www.westpex.com for general information on the show.
- 2) WESTPEX 2017 opens on Friday, April 28 at 9:30 a.m. and closes on Sunday, April 30 at 4 p.m.
- 3) **Your first stop should be at the Polonus Society Table located in Booth #6 on the main show level (2nd floor of the hotel).** A "Welcome Packet" is available for every member who lets us know of their plan to attend. The Polonus Store is open at the society table with a good stock of POLPEX memorabilia, covers, publications, *Fischer Catalogs* (TOM I – 2017 and TOM II – 2016), etc.
- 4) Polonus is making two presentations in the Bay-side I Room, open to all show attendees, on Friday, April 28 at 11 a.m. by Dr. Ross Marshall and at 2 p.m. by Dr. Jerzy Kupiec-Węgliński.
- 5) **The Polonus member "Dutch-Treat" dinner is scheduled on Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m.** with location to be announced at the show (details in the "Welcome Packet").
- 6) A hospitality suite is available for member networking with location and availability times to be announced at the show (details in the "Welcome Packet").
- 7) The Polonus Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 8042.
- 8) **The Annual Membership Meeting is set for Sat-**

urday, April 29 at noon in the Irvine Room. Election results will be announced and the new Board of Directors and Officers for the 2017-2020 term will be introduced. The winner of the 2016 "Best Article" competition will also be announced.

9) The Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7. **Please note, tickets are required and reservations must be received by April 22.** See WESTPEX website for information regarding reservations and tickets.

For the first time in many years we will fall short of our commitment to the number of exhibit frames, however, the final count will represent quality Polish philatelic material competing for award recognition. A listing of the Polish exhibits and respective exhibitors will be included in your "Welcome Packet."

At the risk of repetition, Polonus success at this show is dependent on volunteer support. We need help to staff the society table, to help to promote the Polonus Store, to help with the youth program and to help coordinate scheduled events. As you let us know of your plans to attend, include whether or not you are willing to volunteer for some of the above tasks. **Send your response to:** robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net.

The WESTPEX organizers excel in their planning and conducting of this APS World Series of Philately Show. They have been successfully running this event for 57 years and have earned the tag line, "America's Best Show."

We look forward to a good turnout, including Polonus members, and to having a philatelically enjoyable event.

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1861 – **Dennis Sadowski**, 3245 Nagel Road, Avon OH 44011

1862 – **Frank Spula**, 6100 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago IL 60646

1863 – **Gary Bowers**, 1424 Alton Street, Pittsburgh PA 15216

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Welcome

to the
Polonus Store

(We're Always Open for Business)

The Polonus Store is open and we have an inventory (limited in some items) of POLPEX souvenir sheets, POLPEX show cards, POLPEX cachet covers, FDCs, monographs and other commemorative items (lapel pins, tie tacks, cuff links, shot glasses, catalogs, etc. If you do not find the item you may be searching for in this offering, contact us by email or telephone and we can quickly advise whether or not we have it available

Item 1 – LIMITED “Friendship Thru The Years” FDC \$15.00

Special cachet created by Polonus for the first day US issue of the 1943 Poland Flag in the Overrun Country Series (**Image 1**). Covers include a block of four stamps (Sc 909) canceled in Washington, D.C., on June 22, 1943, with First Day of Issue cancel across all four stamps. Included in the lower left corner is a MNH Poland Flag stamp in a hingeless mount visible through a “window” cut-out of the cover. We have five left in stock.



Image 1

Item 2 – UNIQUE Cover with 12.12.12.12 Cancellation \$10.00

Unique philatelic cover (**Image 2**) with Bydgoszcz cancel on 12.12.12.12. Includes Poland 1.30 zł (Fi 4045) stamp with personalized label showing the calendar date 12.12.2012 with colorful cachet.



Image 2

Item 3 – “Battle of Warsaw” 50th Anniversary Folder.....\$10.00

Issued with US Champions of Liberty Paderewski stamp canceled in New Britain, Connecticut, on November 15, 1970, with special 50th anniversary cancellation, August 15, 1920-1979 (**Images 3 and 3a**). Prepared and issued by Association of Polish Philatelists in Connecticut U.S.A. (APPC).



Image 3

Item 4 – LIMITED Czesław Ślania Cover.....\$10.00

Special cover (**Image 4**) issued during POLPEX '96 to honor Ślania on his 75th birthday. Cachet depicts Ślania “75 years old and still engraving” and special show cancellation from Niles, IL dated September 6-8, 1996 with portrait of Ślania. We have four left in stock.



Image 3a

Item 5 - Poland No. 1 by V. Rachmanoff..... \$5.00

As presented in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* of New York in September 1955. Limited supply remaining at this reduced price.

Item 6 – Rocket Mail 1979 Souvenir Sheet..... \$3.00

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of Polonus, a special souvenir sheet was issued commemorating the rocket mail event in the Mojave Desert.

Add \$2.00 to the listed prices to cover shipping and handling. Send your request to purchase items via snail mail to: **Bob Ogrodnik, P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428** or email to robert.ogrodnik@sbcglobal.net. In return you will receive a confirmation of availability of the items.

Payments are to be made to: Polonus Polish Philatelic Society via personal check or via PayPal (info@polonus.org). If paying by check, include payment with order, mailed to the above address.

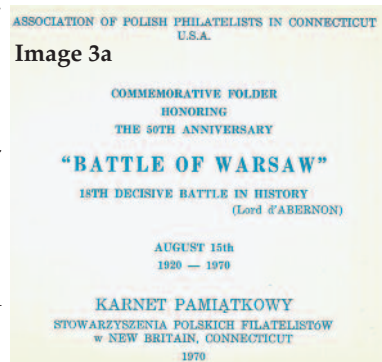
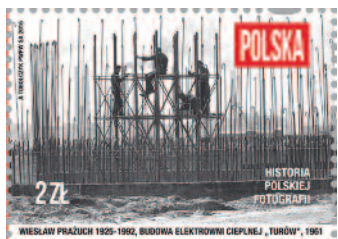


Image 4

New Issues



History of Polish Photography

Four stamps were issued to highlight the history of Polish photography. Two of the stamps, denominated 2 zł and 2.50 zł, recognize the photography of Jan Kosidowski: a summer scene showing the people of Warsaw in 1966 and a scene showing commuters on a street in Jerusalem in 1963.

The other two stamps, also denominated 2 zł and 2.50 zł, show photographs from Wiesław Prazuch: one por-

trays construction of the Turów thermal power plant in 1961 and another shows a Warsaw street procession in 1953. Two additional photographs from these photographers are shown on the two official first day covers.

Kosidowski (1922-92) studied photography in New York and in 1951 returned to Poland to serve as a photojournalist at the weekly illustrated magazine *The World*. Prazuch (1924-92) also worked as a photojournalist at *The World*. In 1952 he became a member of the Union of Polish Art Photographers and in 1975 he founded the quarterly publication *Photography*.

Date of Issue	March 23, 2016
Sheet Format	4 stamps in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agata Tobolczyk

1,050th Year Anniversary of Christianization of Poland

This 6 zł stamp portrays Jan Matejko's painting, *Introduction of Christianity (to Poland)* (*Zaprowadzenie chrześcijaństwa*). The famous oil-on-wood painting from 1889 is now at the National Museum in Warsaw.



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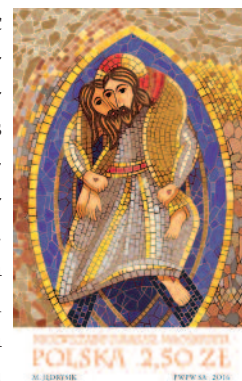
In 966, Poland's King Mieszko I and many in his court were baptized, thus beginning the Christianization of Poland. The ceremony took place on Holy Saturday, April 14, 966. Legend has it that his wife, Queen Dąbrowa of Bohemia, influenced him to accept Christianity. This event, often termed the Baptism of Poland (*Chrzest Polski*), led to the building of many churches throughout the nation and the introduction of clergy from outside Poland. Mieszko I's conversion helped achieve several important goals: consolidated his power as king, helped unify the Polish people, improved the position and respectability of Poland among the nations of Europe and improved state administrative offices by bringing in church organization. In addition to the numbered SS, the Polish Post also issued a non-denominated numbered blackprint for collectors, as well as an official first day cover.

Date of Issue	March 30, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in numbered SS
Printing Method	Photogravure & Steel Engraving
Designers	Karol Tabaka & Przemysław Krajewski

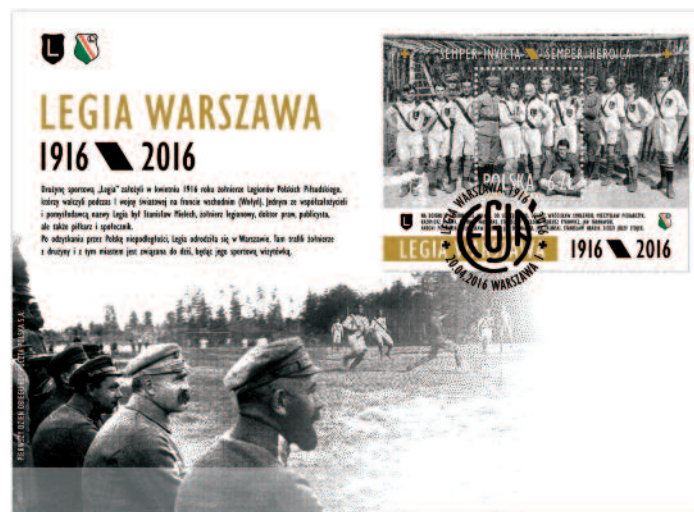
The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

This 2.50 zł stamp shows the special art logo conceived by artist and theologian Marco Rupnik to honor the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (or Compassion) (*Nadzwyczajny Jubileusz Miłosierdzia*) that was declared by Pope Francis. In the Bull of Indiction (*Misericordiae Vultus*), Pope Francis called for a holy year from December 8, 2015, to November 20, 2016, honoring the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Ordinary jubilees or holy years are

called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. In calling for a holy year outside the normal cycle, the Pope emphasized a special theme. This year's theme is mercy, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation in order to emulate God's loving mercy toward us. The mosaic in the logo and shown on the stamp is symbolic of the Good Shepherd or Good Samaritan, who, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself. Marco Rupnik was born in Slovenia in 1954 and ordained as a priest in 1985; he received doctorates in 1991 and 2013 and now works in the Church in Rome.



Date of Issue	April 2, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk



Legia Warszawa 1916/2016

This 6 zł stamp recognizes the Legia of Warsaw professional football (soccer) club. The club was founded in March 1916 as *Drużyna Sportowa Legia* during military operations in World War I on the Eastern Front and became the main football club of the Polish Legions. In 1920, the club was identified as *Wojskowy Klub Sportowy Warszawa* and renamed Legia in 1923 after merging with another club, Korona. The club's home venue at the Polish Army Stadium (*Stadion Wojska Polskiego*) in Warsaw since 1930 was a gift from Józef Piłsudski. From 1949-1957 the club was known as CWKS Warszawa (Central Military Sports Club of Warsaw). Ownership was transferred to Pol-Mot and from 2004-2014 it was owned by the media conglomerate ITI Group. The club is now owned by Dariusz Mioduski, Bogusław Leśnodorski and Maciej Wandzel. The club has several nick-

names, including *Wojskowi* (Militarymen) and *Legionisci* (Legionnaires). The SS features a photo of the team from 1916 and the top of the SS displays the supportive slogans *Semper Invicta* (Always Invincible) and *Semper Heroica* (Always Heroic).

Date of Issue	April 20, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in numbered SS
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Flowers and Fruits - Poppy

This 10 zł stamp shows a flower with seeds of the



opium poppy (*Popaver somniferum*). The tiny poppy seeds (*mak*) have been harvested for thousands of years and used as an ingredient in foods or pressed to yield poppy seed oil. Also used as a folk remedy, the seeds are be-

lieved to aid in sleeping and promote fertility. The seeds are widely used as a spice and decoration in baked goods such as buns and breads, while the sugared and milled seeds are used as a filling or topping in sweet pastry. The seeds contain very low levels of opiate. Harvesting poppy seeds usually conflicts with harvesting the plant's opium. Poppy seeds are harvested when they are ripe, after the seed pod has dried; opium is traditionally harvested while the seed pods are green and when the seeds have just begun to grow. The largest poppy seed producing nations are the Czech Republic, Turkey and Spain.

Date of Issue	April 20, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska

Europa

This 5 zł stamp depicts a hand painting an environmentally friendly European landscape. The left side of the stamp shows old Europe in gray, with electric transmission lines and clouds of air pollution. The right side is a bicyclist riding past solar electric panels and wind turbines colored in green. The official theme for this year's EUROPA stamps is "Ecology in Europe – Think Green." Since the first issue of EUROPA stamps in 1956, these annual issues from the nations of Europe symbolize a desire for closer integration and cooperation. Next year's EUROPA theme is "castles."

Date of Issue	May 9, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	D. Sergidou



World Youth Day – Kraków 2016

These two stamps, denominated 2.50 and 6 zł, por-

tray Pope Francis greeting young people at the World Youth Day festivities held in Krakow on July 25-31, 2016 (*Światowe Dni Młodzieży Kraków 2016*). This international Catholic event occurs every two to three years at different locations around the world. Saint Pope John Paul II initiated this event in 1985; the last such event in the Philip-



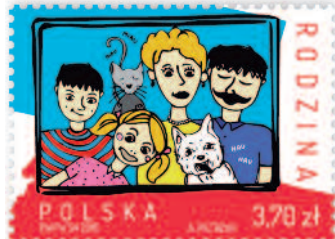
pines had more than six million attendees.

The theme for this year's event is "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7). The event follows Poland's celebrations of the 1,050th anniversary its Christian conversion. Krakow expanded its communication and transportation network for the special event and renovated local schools to accommodate the pilgrims. Pope Francis led a televised Way of the Cross procession from the city's Divine Mercy Sanctuary with a prayer vigil on youth issues near the Wieliczka Salt Mine and a concluding mass in Krakow's Blonia Park. The festival featured a tent museum with Vatican exhibits and concerts and exhibitions at more than 100 locations. In addition to the stamps issued in three different formats, a numbered blackprint SS was issued for collectors.

Date of Issue	May 10, 2016
Sheet Format	2 stamps: one in sheet of 50 and pane of 4; another in numbered SS
Printing Method	Photogravure for sheet and pane; and photogravure and steel engraving for SS
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz

Polish Family

This 3.70 zł stamp recognizes today's stereotypical Polish Family (*Rodzina*). The stamp shows cartoon caricatures of a young Polish family of four, with a dog and cat. Today's nuclear family in Poland is now usually an equal partnership between a man and woman, not patriarchal in nature. Also, the traditional historic household, inhabited by several generations simultaneously, is now rare in Poland. Small families, with but two children, predominate (PolishWoman.com).



Date of Issue	June 1, 2016
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 16
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak

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